GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
ACCESS TO INFORMATION UNDER RTI ACT
Jindal Shri Naveen;Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study conducted by the Society of Participatory Research in Asia, the ordinary Indians do not have an easy/smooth access to information under RTI Act as reported in the Indian Express dated January 30, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government offices are refusing to accept applications under the RTI Act from rural people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to stop such harassment to the applicants from rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.(SHRI SURESH PACHOURI)

(a) & (b) : According to a study conducted by the Society of Participatory Research in Asia in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the rural masses have largely not been able to use the RTI Act due to poor awareness.

(c) to (e) : The Right to Information Act contains adequate provisions for remedial action in case there is violation of provisions of RTI Act. Any complaint of refusal to accept applications under the RTI Act by any office can be dealt accordingly.